

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Arts & Crafts Fair

Creative MarinShares and Marinterns participants may apply to be exhibitors and vendors at the Employee Arts & Crafts Fair. Space is limited. Contact coordinator [Anne Starr](#) by Monday, November 7.

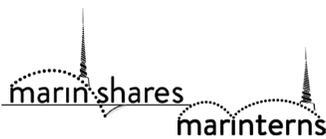
Fair returns! Save the dates!
Wed. Nov. 30–Thur. Dec. 1
11:30–4:30
Civic Center Café, Room 237.
Handmade gifts & live music.
The public is welcome.

Where Are They Now?

Twelve years ago, **Sarah Anker** interned with HR, the Board of Supervisors, and the County Counsel's Office. Sarah chose the law, passed the California Bar, and was hired by the County Counsel. She advises several departments, including HR. After the former HR director left county employment in June, Sarah was tapped as acting director and is serving in that role until a new director is hired.

Lookouts in the News

Volunteer **Steven Post** is featured in a [Chronicle article](#) about California's manned lookouts published September 24.



STAFF

Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers
415-473-7167 • ASTarr@marincounty.org
Joy Fossett, Student Internships Coordinator
415-473-7447 • JFossett@marincounty.org

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Clariss Ajanel, Natalie Dybeck, Marjorie Grannan, Scott Harrop, Calla McBride, Tiyona Pariani** | Photographer: **Gregg Turner** | Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross** | Copy Editor Intern: **David Balderama** | Graphic Design: **Eleanor Lau** | Graphic Design Aide: **Afsaneh Bohlouli** | Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz** | Administrative Aides: **Deborah Gregor, Deborah Fox, Veronica Morino** | Cartoonist: **John Donaghue**

Equipment Manager Keeps Team Ready to Search and Rescue

By Marjorie Grannan

Back in 2016, MarinShares volunteer **Dave Gannon** learned of search and rescue organizations from a coworker. Immediately attracted to the idea, he applied for a volunteer role with the Marin County Search & Rescue (SAR) organization.

Dave has been equipment manager for the Marin SAR for six years, wrangling everything from vehicles to ropes and cables, stretchers and pulleys, radios, water bottles, and protein bars for the team and for the rescued.

"Dave does so much behind the scenes that he rarely gets the recognition he deserves," said his staff supervisor,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID GANNON

Search & Rescue volunteers Dave Gannon, left, and Catherine Way prepare to be lowered down a cliff to rescue a "victim" during a training exercise at Elephant Rocks, Dillon Beach, in West Marin.

Lt. **Pierre Ahuncain** of the Marin County Sheriff's Office. "He is a huge asset to the team and to the citizens we provide service to."

Dave is a vice president at a construction firm in San Francisco, a position that

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Volunteer Brings Creative Energy to Library

By Natalie Dybeck



PHOTO BY AARON FONG

Sue Buster at the Fairfax Library

MarinShares volunteer **Sue Buster** is no stranger to serving her community. "I worked at Hospice of Marin for 13 years and while there saw how the volunteers contributed to the organization and benefitted from volunteering," said Sue. "When we relocated to the Central Valley in 1995 for my husband's work, that prompted me to explore volunteer options. I tutored at a school and then, as a member of the Fresno FiberArts Guild, volunteered to help organize and operate a sewing room at a day shelter for poor and homeless women." She volunteered there for 12 years and learned many lessons.

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Volunteer Brings Creative Energy to Library

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Returning to Marin after 17 years, Sue looked for a place to best donate her skills. “I went to the library often,” she explained, “and on one trip had an ‘aha!’ moment, realizing I always liked being at the library so I should try that.” She volunteers as a shelver and fabric arts club leader at the Fairfax branch of the Marin County Free Library.

Every Wednesday for three hours, Sue references a list provided by library staffers of materials patrons have requested. She then collects the materials to send to the appropriate libraries for patrons to pick up. She also shelves books, DVDs, and CDs returned to the Fairfax branch. “I appreciate the library’s resources and am glad to be part of making it work for others,” Sue said. In addition, she leads the fabric arts club.

Her staff supervisor, Library Desk Supervisor **Anthony Puga**, has nothing but praise for Sue. “It is a pleasure to have Sue volunteering at the Fairfax Library,” he said. “Her good humor and dedication are appreciated not only by staff but also by our surrounding community. She continues to lead our very popular Fabric and Fiber Club, bringing her creative energy and skill to this enthusiastic group of crafters. Sue is a bright spot in our library world.”

Asked about her most memorable experience with the library so far, Sue answered, “When a patron looked puzzled at a label on the shelves and asked me, ‘What is nonfiction?’”

Her most rewarding experience is “being part of a good team working to serve the

community. I am very impressed with the staff members who are dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring.” Sue added, “It’s a pleasure to work with Anthony, who is a wonderful supervisor—caring, interested, appreciative, always glad to explain if needed—and who applies these same abilities to assisting library users.”

In addition to volunteering, Sue enjoys reading, hiking, yoga, cooking, travel, and knitting. “For many years I was a member of Black Mountain Weavers/Artisans in Point Reyes Station where things I knit and wove were sold.” She is rounding out 2022 with trips to the Oregon coast with friends, national parks in Texas with her sister, and Kauai with her children and grandchildren. ■

Intern Explores Local Government Legal Career

By Tiyona Pariani

Exploring a future in the law, Marintern **Josh Chan** served in a pre-law internship with the Marin County District Attorney’s Office for the past two summers. Learning while doing, he prepared trial binders for attorneys by reviewing evidence and summarizing the most relevant components of each case.

An earlier volunteer role was helpful for this internship. During high school, Josh was a county youth commissioner. He met Marin County Superintendent of Schools **Mary Jane Burke** then, and she later helped fulfill his internship goals by recommending him to Marin County Assistant District Attorney **Otis Bruce Jr.**

“Due to his drive, positive attitude, and willingness to learn, Josh has gained invaluable experience through his internships and developed a much clearer vision for his future career in law,” said Superintendent Burke. “We are proud to call Josh a Marin schools alum and know he will make a great



Josh Chan

attorney. I can’t wait until he comes back to Marin to practice law!”

Josh’s favorite internship project was joining Otis in offering free legal resources during a fair in the Canal district of San Rafael.

“I wanted to better understand how local government works and look into how change is made on a community level,” Josh said. “I was drawn into these specific opportunities because I felt that the people running these programs genuinely wanted to see me grow and learn through hands-on experience.”

“Josh is an inspirational student dedicated to public service, community leadership—and to creating great music,” said Otis. “It’s been a true honor to mentor and support him and to see his academic and public service career trajectory develop from Redwood High School to UC Santa Barbara to becoming a future Marin County community leader and advocate for our youth.” Otis said he looks forward to seeing Josh “support the success of other students based on his successful Marin County internship experiences.”

Josh was born in Manila, Philippines. He moved to Chicago in 2006 and Corte Madera in 2015. A Redwood

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High School Student Learns About Archiving

By Clariss Ajanel

To pursue her dream of becoming an astronomer, Marin intern **Alma Soria** learned about attention to detail when she interned in the California Room archives of the Marin County Free Library. Every Thursday for five hours, she reviewed and sorted documents and artifacts so they could be preserved, organized, and easily accessed.

“I volunteered this summer because I wanted something meaningful to do with my time,” said Alma. “I also enjoy learning about history, and this seemed like it provided the perfect opportunity to learn about the history of my area.”

Alma completed middle school earlier this year at Mark Day School in San Rafael. She is continuing her education at Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa. “I am just starting high school, and I hope that high school will set me on the course to becoming an astronomer,” she said.

Her internship supervisor, Librarian **Carol Acquaviva**, found that Alma’s efforts helped researchers work more effectively.

“Alma helped organize a large group of survey-related material donated to the Anne T. Kent California Room for the Marin County Parks Department and created a list of what is in this collection,” Carol said. Alma learned about organizing, analyzing, and archiving. “Her efforts meant that we will be able to more effectively help researchers looking for specific information about places all across Marin County,” Carol said.

Alma was inspired to intern at the California Room by her mentor, **Dave Williams**, who is also her grandfather. He also inspires her to appreciate the importance of knowledge. (Dave volunteered at the library for 19 years.)

Alma lives with her grandparents and their dog Claire. Along with the internship, she spent her summer participating in Girls Garage, a program designed to teach young women construction skills, social awareness, and the power of activism.

In her free time, she enjoys learning through travel. “My favorite trip was probably to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas, a center dedicated



PHOTO BY CAROL ACQUAVIVA

Alma Soria

to the history of spaceflight and becoming an astronaut,” she said.

“Alma is bright, curious, creative, and she has a wonderful sense of humor,” Carol said. “We were so fortunate to have her with us this summer. We were sad to see her go at the end of summer but look forward to hearing about all her amazing accomplishments and achievements in high school.” ■

Equipment Manager Keeps Team Ready to Search and Rescue

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID GANNON



Dave Gannon

gives him flexibility to participate in lifesaving work with SAR. “Webcor Builders values community service. The company fully understands my role and that I might need to leave

at a moment’s notice. Every season is different. In hunting season, the hunters get lost—and they get really lost. In the spring, when waterfalls start rushing, people want to take a look and go wading.” He added, “When it gets darker earlier, some people aren’t used to it, and they don’t have a flashlight.”

SAR team members must pass rigorous training and keep in shape to participate in the grueling physical demands of their roles. “We use mountain bikes in our rescue work, and I ride my own mountain bike every day,” Dave said. “I ride to job sites, to my office—it’s a really enjoyable way to get home after a long day.”

The SAR team’s work can be emotionally devastating. During recovery operations in the town of Paradise after the Camp Fire in 2018, Dave found the destruction “shocking to see. It’s a tough part of the job. Our team members act with professionalism and respect. We do it for the families, so that at least they can have closure.”

Dave continues, “We have to be as optimistic as absolutely possible. I remember an event farther north in California. Two young girls had vanished. They were actually not far from their home, but they’d been out there all night. With kids so young, it didn’t look promising, but they were found. Just seeing the look on their parents’ faces when they were found...those images and memories are what motivate me.” ■

To learn about applying to SAR boot camp, visit [Marin SAR](#). Participants must be 14 or older, and people of all backgrounds are welcome to apply.

Intern Explores Local Government Legal Career

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High graduate, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy at UC Santa Barbara. He expects to graduate in 2024.

Josh also is a singer, songwriter, and producer. Music is both a job and a hobby for him. He performs gigs in the Bay Area and Santa Barbara and markets his indie pop music on social media and streaming platforms under his stage name, jomch (pronounced *jaw-mch*).

The pre-law internship at the DA's Office helped Josh gain perspective on what it is like to



Josh Chan speaks during a local event for students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH CHAN

work in the legal field and enabled him to make professional connections that will help guide him through his career journey.

“I have been fortunate to have so many incredible mentors in my life—but none of this would have happened if I hadn't built up the courage to ask for help,” said Josh. “Do not be afraid to ask for help. People are much more willing to help and offer their advice than you may think.” ■

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

17 YEARS

Steve Wilson (Mill Valley), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

14 YEARS

Richard Sievers (Healdsburg), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Vivian Cohen (Novato), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

13 YEARS

James Campbell (Belvedere), Steward, Marin County Parks

12 YEARS

Charles Campbell (San Rafael), Chaplain, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Susan Hewlett (Bolinas), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Jerry Riessen (Tiburon), Steward, Marin County Parks

9 YEARS

David Jeffries (Rohnert Park), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Marin County Fire (Fire)

8 YEARS

James Irving (Fairfax), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Fire

Shirley Young (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

7 YEARS

Brian Crawford (San Anselmo), California Room Researcher and Writer, Civic Center Library

Lindsey Going (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

6 YEARS

Michael Simon (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Fire

4 YEARS

Kathleen Safford (Mill Valley), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

3 YEARS

Patricia Hume (Mill Valley), **Molly Kenward** (Mill Valley), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

Pamela Juckas (Novato), **Xander Santos** (San Rafael), **Carolyn Rebuffel Flannery** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteers, HHS

Robert Cook (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

2 YEARS

Catherine Barnes (Nicasio), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

1 YEAR

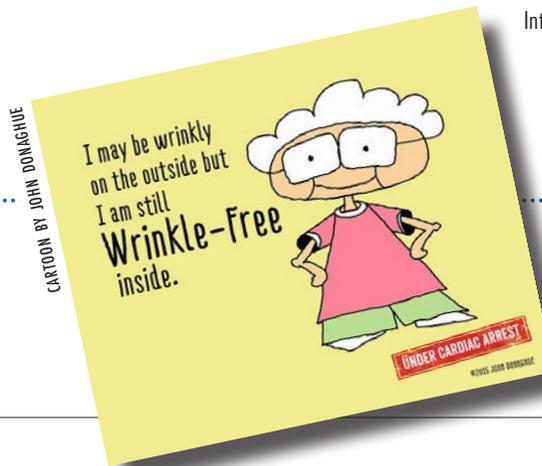
Maria Angelopulos (Novato), **Lynn Bloom** (San Rafael), **Ida Hill** (San Anselmo), **Elfriede Weideli** (Mill Valley), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

Eva Bennett (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office

Megan Busby (San Anselmo), **Jacy McLellan** (San Anselmo), **Anna Mendoza** (San Anselmo), **Kai Schiesser** (San Anselmo), **Casey 'Caz' Schoenhoeft** (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Interns, HHS

Burt Hoffman (Novato), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Matthew Tom (San Anselmo), Building Plan Scanning Intern, Community Development Agency





Hundreds of visitors attended a lively open house celebrating the Marin Civic Center's 60th anniversary on October 13. There were succinct speeches, live music, cake, balloons—and volunteer docent-led tours all day long. Here, tour guide **Bill Schwarz** explains how Marin locals managed to connect with world-famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed the landmark building. Anniversary co-coordinator **Libby Garrison** of the Cultural Services Department praised "heroic support from our volunteer docents. Each tour was a hit, with some including over 50 people listening intently about the history and importance of our beloved building. Our docents are our experts and it's my privilege and pleasure to work with them, sharing the story of the Civic Center to our community and beyond."



SPIRE DRAWING ART FROM [CIVIC CENTER SCHOOL TOURS](#)



Volunteers were key to the success of the Marin Civic Center's 60th anniversary bash. MarinShares event volunteer **Marie Fitzgerald**, left, and Marin Center usher **Ruth-Louise Moran**, right, pictured here with staff member **Libby Garrison**, were still smiling as the celebration wrapped up. Libby and county Librarian **Carol Acquaviva** coordinated the event.

Who's New & Welcome!

Ken Adams (Woodacre), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

Errol Aragon (San Francisco), Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Tiffany Cam (Sacramento), Nursing Student in Oral Health Program, HHS

Annie Carmona (San Rafael), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Brian Cooley (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Jeffrey Deitchman (Point Reyes Station), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Volunteer, Point Reyes Library

Brandon Giron (San Rafael), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Helena Harris (San Rafael), Nursing Student, HHS

Colyn Heimerman (Berkeley), RxSafe Marin AmeriCorps VISTA Intern, HHS

Sara Hiebert (San Rafael), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Stephanie Jin (Richmond), Public Health Nursing Student, HHS

Andie King (Tiburon), Homework Helpers Intern, Corte Madera Library

Summer Laird (San Francisco), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Finlay Mallard (Mill Valley), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Aiden Marquez (San Rafael), Public Health Nursing Student, HHS

Calla McBride (Corte Madera), Teen Advisory Group Intern, Novato Library

Jessica Ngo (San Jose), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Daphne Reed (San Rafael), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Rebecca Schaffer (Mill Valley), Public Health Nursing Student, HHS

Wendy Scott (San Rafael), Public Health Nursing Student, HHS

John Sims (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

Dhanya Subramanian (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Stella Vazquez (Fairfax), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Radhika Vedantham (Greenbrae), Homework Helpers Intern, Corte Madera Library

Gabrielle Wampler (San Jose), Nursing Student in Oral Health Program, HHS

Sandra Wilkinon (Novato), Client Assessment Volunteer, HHS

Devon Zhang (El Dorado Hills), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library